

# A New Community Among Men: The East West Center

Murray Turnbull

"The East-West Center has been conceived and established not to erase differences between people, but to make possible respect for the ways in which we are unlike and the recognition and acknowledgement of our similarities, that we may join in the construction of a dynamic and fruitful but peaceful life for all.

We wish not to make one like the other, but to learn one of the other what each is, through knowledge, insight, and understanding, that we may create a community among men in which our dissimilarities enrich their opposites. We cannot lose our separate identities—we must each be identified. Yet out of our diversities we shall strive for unity, and out of that imperative unity we shall endeavor to preserve the diversities which form its substance.

What we give we shall hope to receive, and what we offer to the men and women of Asia and the Pacific is but what we seek—recognition as colleagues in the human enterprise."

*From an address by the author at the Dedication and Ground-Breaking Ceremonies, East-West Center, May 9, 1961.*

Wherever and whenever men can face one another as peers and exchange their considered views on the vital issues of their lives, their constructive potentialities for co-operative peace increase dramatically. Whenever they can share

knowledge and information basic to these issues, they establish sound foundations upon which such interchanges can occur most fruitfully, and at the same time provide the means for effective thought and action.

It was to accomplish these ends in the most propitious environment that the East-West Center was established in Hawaii in 1960. Today there are 247 students from 25 countries studying at the University of Hawaii as the vanguard of a growing number of young men and women who will contribute to these goals.

Hawaii, although not necessarily typical of the United States, symbolizes the democratic process as it responds to the creative impact of varied cultural and racial groups. Hawaii provides a tangible demonstration of the co-operative accomplishments of people of diverse origins, working together as free men, with mutual respect and consideration. It represents the reality of the American dream, not through a bland assimilation of differences, but as a fulfilled promise in the useful employment of diversities for mutual good. Indeed, Hawaii's people constitute visible proof that men can retain their own identities while living together in harmony.

## AIMS OF CENTER

The basic and stated principles of the Center are these:

The Center has as its primary

*Mr. Turnbull, Professor of Art, University of Hawaii, was Acting Chancellor of the East-West Center until Dr. Alexander Spoebr assumed the chancellor's post January 1, 1962. From the first stages of the Center's development, Professor Turnbull gave dedicated, intelligent, and forceful direction to the most significant single venture in the history of the University. Mr. Turnbull has been a member of the faculty since 1954 and has served as Chairman of the Art Department and Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. His current interests in art are stained glass, plastics, and color experimentation.*

objective the increase and development of mutual understanding among the peoples of the countries of the Pacific area. The term "interchange" as used in the official title, Center for Cultural and Technical Interchange Between East and West, carries the greatest possible weight and is of utmost significance in the formulation and carrying out of basic policies and operations. The Center has as a parallel objective the betterment of American relationships with foreign peoples. This objective is consistent with and in fact dependent upon the first objective.

The Center encourages and solicits, indeed makes paramount, the fullest mutual cooperation and participation of foreign countries and institutions as well as mainland American institutions in fulfilling its objectives.

The organization and operation of the Center are flexible enough to be adaptable to multiple, diverse, and changing needs of the countries, students, and senior scholars and leaders involved.

The Center actively seeks at home and abroad foundation and private support for its programs and enterprises, along with assistance from existing governmental agencies.

All awards, grants, and expenditures made through, for, or on behalf of the Center are devised to acknowledge and develop the highest standards of intellectual achievement and community service in the cause of human welfare.

The Center seeks to fulfill its objectives through two different kinds of people: first, young men and women of promise in their own communities, and second, men and women of established reputation and achievement. Grants to individuals are made to men and women of promise and ability who may be expected to make or are making a significant contribution to life in their own countries. Such people from abroad are selected on the understanding that they will return to their own countries upon completion of studies.

Expenditures for conferences, research, or other special programs of the Center are planned to promote and facilitate the free passage of information and ideas, and are based upon the acknowledgement of the mutual capacity and potential of participating individuals and countries.

Although the Center is seeking to concentrate much of its effort in several specific areas of interest, it has a variety of programs designed to involve many points of view and numerous kinds of issues. Mutual understanding cannot be achieved through the development of only one kind of intellectual or

social climate. Many and diverse human communities must give to and draw from the resources of the Center's programs. For these reasons more than one agency has been established within the Center to carry out its objectives.

One of these consists of a job-training unit, which at the present time provides AID-financed training programs in over a hundred areas within private industry and state governmental agencies. These include in-service training in such things as coffee production, rural youth leadership, livestock nutrition, pest and insect control, city planning, public works and highways, telephone communications, economic planning, labor and industrial relations, public health administration, maternal and child care, police records and report writing, criminal identification, child and family welfare, rehabilitation of the handicapped, teacher preparation, curriculum and program development for schools.

The whole technical training program will be of great importance in spreading practical knowledge and skills of direct use to developing nations. It will also serve as an excellent means for bringing together representative people of many trades and occupations and will offer unique opportunities for the exchange of information in respect to social habits and customs, occupational practices, and individual patterns of living.

The Center is also actively involved in a series of projects which bring together scholars and researchers of distinction through its Institute of Advanced Projects. This Institute administers a number of grants to leaders and specialists who undertake individual or joint research of special interest to both East and West. Wherever possible, scholars from different countries who have common interests are given opportunities to

work together. For example, one study in Ryukyuan literature and history has been conducted by two eminent Okinawan scholars from Japan and from Pennsylvania. An Indian scholar has been working in the Institute with local meteorologists on monsoon research, an Indonesian is developing an extensive study of personality and values, scholars from Japan, Chile, Indonesia and the United States have conducted a small but significant conference on tsunami hydrodynamics, and others are engaged in projects in such fields as genetics, government, linguistics and public health. In addition, the Center has provided several translation services to assist these senior people in their work. Both the translation service and the Institute will play an increasingly important role internationally because both make use of the talents of people of accomplishment from far points of the world. In the exchange of basic knowledge and in the examination of common issues and problems, these units of the Center will serve as a focus and a stimulus to some of the most influential minds of our times.

#### CENTER SEEKS ADVICE

The Center has by no means depended solely upon its own staff or local advisors. Distinguished consultants have been called upon for suggestions and guidance in the planning and development of various proposals. For example, Dr. Sudhir Sen of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board spent two weeks in Hawaii studying local training resources and making concrete recommendations for their use. Dr. Robert Gitler and Dr. Raymond Swank of the American Library Association have submitted an extensive report relevant to the creation of library training programs for Asian students after

*Continued on page 19*